

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 261001Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1169

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8547

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PINT VN VS CB LA

RRUBJ: DRV AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON INDOCHINA

1. FONOFF (HANABUSA) READ CABLE TO EMBOFF RECEIVED FROM VIENTIANE, REPORTING REMARKS MADE RECENTLY BY DRV AMBASSADOR LE VAN HIEN TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SUGUNAMA ON SITUATIONS IN LAOS, SVN, AND CAMBODIA. REGARDING LAOS, AMB HIEN SAID, "WE (SIC) WILL ROOT OUT ALL CORRUPT ELEMENTS AND REFORM LAOS BUT THE PROCESS WILL STOP WHEN IT SHOULD". HIEN COMMENTED FURTHER THAT PREMIER PHOUMA WAS IN CHARGE ASSISTED BY DEP PREMIER SOUPHANOUVONG. HANABUSA INTERPRETED HIEN'S REMARKS TO MEAN THAT HANOI WAS DIRECTING DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS AND THAT HANOI DID NOT PLAN TO COMMUNIZE LAOS TOTALLY AT LEAST AT PRESENT AND THAT CURRENT RADICALIZATION PROCESS MIGHT BE NEAR INTENDED LIMITS.

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2. READING ON, HIEN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IN SVN

THERE WERE STILL DIFFICULTIES IN CONSOLIDATING CONTROL, ESPECIALLY IN THE "MIDDLE REGION" OF SVN. PROCESS SHOULD BE RAPIDLY COMPLETED, HOWEVER. SVN AUTHORITIES WERE FORTUNATE 150,000 - 200,000 DISSIDENTS HAD FLED THE COUNTRY AND ONLY A FEW REMAIN.

3. TURNING TO CAMBODIA, HIEN SAID THAT HANOI HAD NO CONTACT WITH CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES AND KNEW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT WAS OCCURRING THERE. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND THE DRV MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED BUT HE ALSO DOUBTED THAT EVEN THE PRC WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH.

4. COMMENT: HIEN SEEMS SURPRISINGLY CONFIDENT IN ACKNOWLEDGING HANOI'S ROLE IN BOTH LAOS AND SVN. ADMITTED ROLE IN LAOS AND SVN CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH REMARK THAT KHMER-DRV RELATIONS WERE NON-EXISTENT. LATTER OF COURSE COULD BE RUSE TO DISAVOW ROLE BY HANOI IN CAMBODIA BUT MORE LIKELY, IT SEEMS TO US, IT IS FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF KHMER'S NEAR ABSOLUTE ISOLATIONISM AND PERHAPS A SHRED OF EVIDENCE THAT CAMBODIAN RULERS HOPE TO SHUT OUT NORTH VIETNAMESE INFLUENCE AT LEAST IN INITIAL STAGES OF FORMING THE "NEW CAMBODIA".
HODGSON

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